



## Coordinator's Watershed Corner May 2011

### A note to the Clean Water Committee, Paso del Norte Watershed Council From the 319(h) Grant Watershed Coordinator, Brian Hanson

Hello all,

I appreciate the assistance provided by various members of the Watershed Council during our outreach events beginning last fall. Those assisting were:

- Conrad Keyes, Peter Bennett, and Luzma Fabiola at the ***Dia Del Rio***
- Hilary Brinegar and Peter Bennett at the ***Whole Enchilada Fiesta Las Cruces***
- Katrina Martich and Elizabeth Verdecchia at the ***Franklin Mountains Poppy Celebration***
- Peter Bennett and Chris Canavan at ***Earth Day in Las Cruces***

We are actively moving forward with focused stakeholder meetings to develop a strong watershed group. This group will participate in the final Watershed Based Plan that will be completed next year. The group decided to meet on a monthly basis. Our next meeting will take place on June 14, 2011, at 9 a.m. at the Mesilla Park Recreation Center.

We are continually improving our outreach. We recently purchased a banner that we can use in outdoor events, and we are developing other means of communicating effectively with the public as well. For example, our displays and handouts are being developed for specific age groups.

Because dog waste can contribute *E. coli* to the Rio Grande, we are attempting to measure the amount that is left behind. On May 24, 2011, a team of us (Brian Hanson, Sumer Guffey and Peter Bennett) marked and measured dog waste along the trail at La Llorona Park, south of Picacho Bridge. We marked the exact sites with a flag and quantified the dog waste in a 10 foot wide area on both sides of the asphalt trail. We marked 100 sites along 993 feet of the trail. Therefore, the density of dog waste is 100 sites /993 feet long X 20 feet wide, or one dog waste pile per 198.6 square feet. We took photos of the waving flags as documentation of the pet waste problem. We can use the photos and data to try to encourage the public to clean up after their pets. In the future, we can measure the area again and see if our outreach has been effective.

Brian Hanson  
575-646-2642

[www.pdnwc.org](http://www.pdnwc.org)

#### May Events

*Attended Wetlands Roundtable  
meeting in Santa Fe on May 1,  
2011*

*Paso del Norte Watershed Council  
meeting in Las Cruces on May 3,  
2011. A 319(h) project summary  
was presented.*

*Second 319(h) Stakeholder  
Meeting at the Mesilla Park  
Recreation Center on May 12,  
2011*

## Upcoming Events

June 10: 1:00 p.m.  
Water quality model  
presentation to Clean  
Water Committee  
NM Dept of Agriculture,  
3190 Espina, NMSU

June 11: 7:30 a.m.  
Raft the Rio - Come join  
Brian Hanson with a  
display for the Watershed  
Council, Picacho Bridge  
over the Rio Grande

June 14: 9 a.m.  
319(h) Stakeholder  
Meeting to discuss the  
Vision 2040 document,  
Mesilla Park Recreation  
Center

July 1: 9 a.m.  
Paso del Norte  
Watershed Council  
Meeting,  
TX AgriLife Research  
Center at El Paso

## Watershed Tip:

***Pet waste contains bacteria that may be harmful to humans and other animals. Pick up your pet's waste.***

Recent studies have suggested that dog waste was among the top five contributors to bacteria in contaminated waters. "Dogs are one of our usual suspects," says Valerie Harwood, a microbiologist at the University of South Florida. "At certain sites, we find their effect to be significant."

Check out the pictures below from the dog waste research conducted on May 24, 2011 at La Llorona Park.



# Working together to establish and maintain a viable watershed



Earth Day 2011



Franklin Mountains Poppy Festival

